North Dakota
FARM REPORTER

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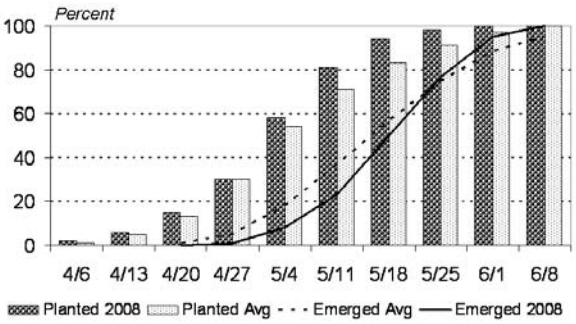
IN THIS ISSUE

CROP WEATHER

North Dakota
During March, western areas of the state saw mild weather as dry conditions persisted. The mild weather provided favorable calving and lambing conditions. Eastern areas received precipitation and had below normal temperatures. Dry conditions allowed producers in western areas to start fieldwork in early April. Below normal temperatures and heavy snowfall late in April kept producers in eastern areas out of the fields. The statewide average starting date for fieldwork was April 15, six days earlier than last year. On April 27, small grain planting proceeded ahead of the five-year (2003-2007) average while all other crops progressed behind the average. By May 18, all other crops planting progress advanced ahead of the average except for dry edible beans.

Spring Wheat Progress
North Dakota, 2008 and 2003-2007 Average

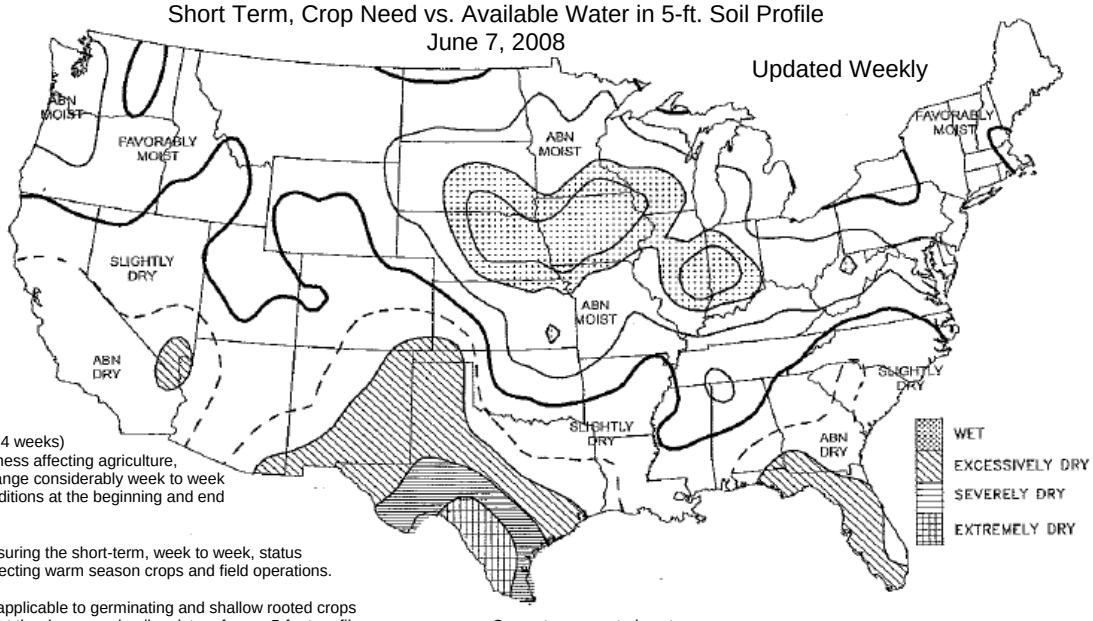


Excellent planting progress in early May allowed small grain emergence to advance ahead of the average pace by May 25. By June 1, small grain emergence neared completion. Spring wheat was 95 percent emerged, compared with 93 percent last year and 88 percent on average. By June 15, small grain development in the jointed and boot stages were behind the average except for durum wheat jointed.

All crops were rated mostly fair to good through June 15. Recent precipitation has been beneficial for pasture and ranges across the state as conditions continue to improve. Pasture and ranges were rated 29 percent good to excellent on June 15, compared with 82 percent a year earlier.

Frequent rain showers from late May into early June have improved soil moisture conditions. As of May 18, 37 percent of topsoil moisture supplies and 36 percent of subsoil moisture supplies were rated adequate to surplus. By June 15, 90 percent of topsoil moisture supplies and 60 percent of subsoil moisture supplies were rated adequate to surplus. Windy conditions prevailed during late May into June.

CROP MOISTURE
Short Term, Crop Need vs. Available Water in 5-ft. Soil Profile
June 7, 2008
Updated Weekly



CROP MOISTURE

Depicts short-term (up to 4 weeks) abnormal dryness or wetness affecting agriculture, responds rapidly, can change considerably week to week and indicates normal conditions at the beginning and end of the growing season.

Uses…applicable in measuring the short-term, week to week, status of dryness or wetness affecting warm season crops and field operations.

Limitations…may not be applicable to germinating and shallow rooted crops which are unable to extract the deep or subsoil moisture from a 5-foot profile, or for cool season crops growing when temperatures are averaging below about 55F. It is not generally indicative of the long-term (months, years) drought or wet spells which are depicted by the drought severity index.

Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary reports

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

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2008 PROJECT SAFE SEND

North Dakota

A healthy environment is something we North Dakotans take for granted. Keeping our air and water clean and pure, however, requires commitment and can be costly. For years, farmers and ranchers have done their part by safely storing unusable pesticides like DDT and mercury seed treatments.

Now there's a way to get rid of these old pesticides for good. It's called Project Safe Send.

Project Safe Send was started in 1992 to help farmers safely and legally dispose of unusable pesticides. Since then, nearly 6,000 people have brought in more than 2 million pounds of pesticides. That's a lot! With the support of pesticide manufacturers, we have the funds to help get rid of more. We can accept any pesticides (this includes herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides and fungicides) that are old, unusable or banned – like DDT, arsenic, dieldrin, chlordane or mercury seed treatments.

"As a farmer, I know how often we end up with left over or unusable pesticides. Project Safe Send gives us all an opportunity to easily and safely dispose of these products at no cost," said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson.

Collections are held at many locations across the state in the summer. These collection sites rotate throughout the state to provide access to a greater number of farmers, ranchers and others. After the collections, hazardous pesticides are carefully packed and shipped out of state for incineration.

Please check your storage areas for any unusable pesticides. Call us if you need free heavy-duty plastic bags for transporting damaged containers of pesticides.

If you have more than 5,000 pounds of pesticides, pre-registration is requested. Rinsates that contain pesticides will be collected at no charge for the first 100 pounds; and then each additional pound will carry a $1.00 per pound fee. Participants are limited to 20,000 pounds.

In the meantime, keep pesticides safely locked up. If you have deteriorating or leaking containers, overpack them in larger containers and add absorbent materials.

Project Safe Send collections are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (local time) at the following dates and sites. All collection sites are at North Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT) maintenance yards.

- **July 8 – WEST FARGO –** County Highway Dept. shop - 1201 W Main Ave, West Fargo; south side of Main Ave, ¼ mile east of Red River Valley Fairgrounds.
- **July 9 – GRAFTON -** take US Hwy 81 north through Grafton, cross the Park River to Division Street (Walsh County 10), take Division St to N.P. Avenue and then north to Commerce Street. DOT is on the south side of Commerce Street.
- **July 10 – GRAND FORKS -** 1951 N. Washington Street, from I-29 take Gateway exit, go east to Hwy 81 (Washington Street), go north 1 mile.
- **July 11 – FINLEY -** on ND 32 at north edge of Finley, east side of highway.
- **July 14 - WAHPETON** - ½ mile west of Wahpeton on ND Hwy 13.
- **July 15 – LISBON** - take ND 27 west from the Junction of ND 27 and ND 32, go 1½ miles. DOT is on the north side of ND 27.
- J**uly 15 – BISMARCK** - 218 S. Airport Road, from I-94, take exit 161, go south on Bismarck Expressway to Main Ave., west on Main Ave to 19th St., go south on 19th across railroad tracks and turn right into the district yard.
- **July 16 – ELLENDALE** – north side of Ellendale, west of junction of ND 11and US 281, north side of road.
- **July 16 – BOWMAN** - 1 mile west of Bowman, south side of US 12.
- **July 17 – JAMESTOWN** - 3568 81ST Ave NE; exit 256 on I-94, Woodbury Interchange, north about 1/2 mile, east side of street.
- **July 17 – BELFIELD** - I-94 to exit 42, then 1/2 mile south on US 85, just left of US 5.
- **July 18 – WATFORD CITY** - on US 85, 3/4 mile south of junction of US 85 and ND 23.
- **July 21 – KENMARE** - ½ mile east of junction US 52 and Ward Co. 2.
- **July 22 – VELVA** - east side of ND 41, 1/3 mile south of the junction of US 52 and ND 41.
- **July 23 - HARVEY** - from the junction of business loop Highway 52 and 3, go north 1.5 miles and take a right on 6th St, continue about 2 blocks, on the north side of road.
- **July 24 - CANDO** - 2 blocks north of Hwy 17 on east edge of Cando about 1 mile east of Hwy 281.

Source: ND Department of Agriculture, May 2008

Higher Feed Grain Prices Expected

Projected U.S. 2008/09 corn production was decreased 390 million bushels this month to 11.7 billion. The decline reflects lower expected yields due to slow planting progress, slow crop emergence, and persistent, heavy rainfall across the Corn Belt. Lower supplies are expected to boost prices and lower feed and residual use, exports, and ending stocks. World coarse grains production is expected to be down, with increased foreign production prospects offsetting about two-thirds of the U.S. drop. Because of increased foreign beginning stocks, world coarse grains supplies for 2008/09 are up this month. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will release the first survey based estimates of 2008/09 crop acreage at the end of June and barley and oats production in July.

Feed Grains Use Declines

Forecast total feed grains use for 2007/08 was decreased 1.5 million metric tons to 350 million, this month, as a result of lower corn and sorghum exports. Projected domestic use in 2007/08 increased 200,000 metric tons this month due to increased sorghum feed and residual use. The total supply of feed grains remains unchanged in 2007/08.

Projected total supply was decreased 8.3 million metric tons in 2008/09, due to a forecast decrease in feed grain production, offset slightly by an increase of 1.5 million metric tons in beginning stocks. Total domestic use in 2008/09 is forecast at 281.2 million tons, up 1.1 million from 2007/08. Expected total use in 2008/09 is decreased 6.1 million metric tons this month as a result of lower exports and feed and residual use. A smaller projected corn crop and higher prices are anticipated to reduce corn feed and residual use.

2008/09 Corn Yield Projected Lower

Lower yield prospects have led to a reduction of 390 million bushels in projected U.S. corn production this month to 11.7 billion bushels. Very wet weather has delayed planting and crop emergence in many parts of the Corn Belt this spring. As a result, the 2008/09 projected corn yield was reduced 5 bushels per acre to 148.9 bushels per acre.

As of June 1, 95 percent of the intended acreage was planted in the 18 major growing states, compared with an average of 98 percent in the previous 5 years and 99 percent in 2007. Corn emergence is also delayed with only 74 percent of the corn crop emerged in the 18 major growing states as of June 1. This compares with an average of 89 percent in the previous 5 years and 92 percent last year.

Yields are expected to be reduced due to delays in planting and extremely heavy rainfall across the Corn Belt. Recurring torrential rainfall can be expected to reduce nitrogen availability and plant populations, especially for corn planted after mid-May. Growers planting after mid-May often switch to shorter season varieties that also have lower yield potential. In general, later plantings increase the risk of heat stress at pollination, along with the risk of early frosts. Weather over the rest of the growing season will be the most critical factor in determining actual yields, but this year's crop has gotten off to an unusually bad start. With plantings in many areas delayed beyond usual completion dates, there will be a wide range in the stages of crop development this season which increases the potential for variability in yields.

Corn exports for the 2007/08 marketing year were lowered by 50 million bushels this month to 2.45 billion, due to a slower export pace in recent weeks. This change increased ending stocks by a like amount, therefore raising 2008/09 beginning stocks to 1.43 billion bushels.

Tighter supplies and record corn prices are forecast to lower feed and residual use in 2008/09 by 150 million bushels to 5.15 billion. Food, seed, and industrial use (FSI) for 2008/09 is unchanged this month at 5.36 billion bushels. FSI remains at record levels due to increased ethanol production, currently forecast to utilize 4.0 billion bushels of corn in 2008/09, up 1.0 billion bushels from 2007/08. Exports in 2008/09 were reduced 100 million bushels to 2.0 billion due to expected higher foreign production. Ending stocks are expected to drop to 673 million bushels, the lowest since 1995/96 ending stocks of 426 million bushels.

Season average farm prices for corn are projected higher this month. The projected range for 2007/08 was raised to $4.25 to $4.45 per bushel compared with $4.10 to $4.40 per bushel. The 2008/09 farm price is projected at $5.30 to 6.30 per bushel, up 30 cents on both ends of the range.

Sorghum Exports to Decrease in 2007/08

Due to a slowing pace of export sales and shipments in recent weeks, expected sorghum exports for 2007/08 were reduced 20 million bushels this month to 265 million. Ending stocks and feed and residual use are expected to both increase by 10 million bushels due to the reduction in exports. As a result, 2008/09 beginning stocks increased to 62 million bushels, up from of 32 million in 2007/08. Feed and residual use was also increased 10 million bushels in 2008/09 to 200 million. There is no change this month in 2008/09 exports, although total use increases 10 million bushels to 420 million, down from 475 million in 2007/08. Ending stocks for 2008/09 are unchanged at 57 million bushels.

Marketing year average prices received by farmers for sorghum are projected higher this month. For 2007/08, the price range is projected at $4.10 to $4.30 per bushel compared with $3.95 to $4.25 per bushel. The 2008/09 price is also expected higher at $4.95-$5.95 per bushel, up 25 cents on both ends of the range.

Barley and Oats Prices Increased for 2008/09

Prices received by farmers for barley in 2008/09 were projected higher this month at $5.75 to $6.75 per bushel, up 5 cents on both ends of the range. This compares with $4.00 per bushel in 2007/08. The increase in barley farm prices is limited by contracting for malting barley.

Oats prices for 2008/09 were also raised and are projected at $3.70 to $4.70 per bushel, up 20 cents on both ends of the range, and up sharply from $2.60 per bushel in 2007/08. Supply and demand estimates were unchanged this month.

Source: Feed Outlook, ERS-USDA, June 12, 2008

POTATO STOCKS

North Dakota
Growers, dealers and processors held 2.50 million hundredweight (cwt) of potatoes in storage on June 1, 2008, up 19 percent from a year ago and 92 percent from two years ago. Current stocks represent 11 percent of production, up from 8 percent last year and 6 percent two years ago. Total stocks are defined as all potatoes on hand, regardless of use, including those that will be lost through future shrinkage and dumping.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to June 1 totaled 21.2 million cwt, down from 23.4 million cwt a year ago but up from 19.2 million cwt two years ago. May disappearance totaled 1.40 million cwt, down from 2.70 million cwt a year ago and 1.90 million cwt two years ago.

United States
The 13 major potato states held 58.4 million cwt of potatoes in storage June 1, 2008, up 31 percent from a year ago and 40 percent above June 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 15 percent of the 2007 fall storage states' production, up 3 percentage points from last year.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to June 1 was at 342 million cwt, 1 percent below last year but up 3 percent from 2006. Shrink and loss, at 24.6 million cwt, was down 4 percent from the same period in 2007 but up 4 percent from 2006. Processors have used 176 million cwt of the 2007 potato crop so far this season, down 3 percent from last year's season-to-date usage but up 5 percent from two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 37.5 million cwt of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year but 10 percent above the same period in 2006.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks
13 Major States and United States, June 1, 2007-2008

State	Crop of 2006		Crop of 2007	
	Production	Stocks June 1, 2007 [1]	Production	Stocks June 1, 2008 [1]
	1,000 Cwt	*1,000 Cwt*	*1,000 Cwt*	*1,000 Cwt*
North Dakota	25,480	2,100	23,660	2,500
California	3,870	290	4,223	300
Colorado	22,686	3,700	20,981	2,700
Idaho	128,915	21,000	131,650	24,500
Maine	17,980	3,000	16,530	1,950
Michigan	14,190	[1]	14,700	[1]
Minnesota	20,400	2,000	20,680	2,500
Montana	3,518	[1]	3,696	[1]
Nebraska	8,730	700	8,051	320
New York	5,700	[1]	5,216	[1]
Oregon	18,533	2,300	20,238	4,200
Washington	89,900	7,500	102,300	17,500
Wisconsin	29,370	1,700	28,160	1,600
Other States		170		320
13 State Total	389,272	44,460	400,085	58,390

[1] Missing stocks combined into “Other States”.